

Springerville Town Council
Minutes
October 6, 2010
6:05pm

Present: Eric Baca Mayor, Dan Muth, Connie Hunt, Susan Silva and Ron Thebeau

Staff: Steve West Town Manager, Val Cordova Town Clerk and Tim Shaffery Legal Counsel.

Public: Dennis Chandler NRCD, Kevin Burk, Kelly Meyer , Mike Lopez, Richard Dreyer, David Goeradt, Mike Godwin with Arizona Game & Fish Dept, Shawna Nelson, Crystal Steed, Tom Vanzant USDA-NRCS, and Steve Wood.

1. Mayor Baca called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Councilmember Thebeau led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Participation:None
4. Manager, Council and Chamber Reports:

Mr. West reported that its Springerville turn for CDBG and we'll be having a public hearing on November 3rd to take comments on projects to be considered in 2011. He said any project to be considered must be proposed during this hearing or they won't be considered.

Mr. West announced that the polling place for the November Elections would be held in the Emma Udall Room here at town hall and early ballot voting begins tomorrow October 7th. He gave a brief update on the airport overlay saying that the overlay may not be completed this year but would make the runway usable. He reported that staff would be working on an ordinance and fee schedule for HB2246 regarding the sale of fireworks beginning December 1st.

Councilmember Hunt reported Good Deed Week is coming and encouraged participation.

5. Consent Items:

- a. Consider approval of the minutes from the joint town councils meeting held on July 8, 2010 at 6:00 pm
- b. Consider approval of the minutes from the town council workshop held on September 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm
- c. Consider approval of the minutes from the town council meeting held on September 15, 2010 at 6:00 pm

Muth/Ron Thebeau motion to approve consent items 5a-5c.

Vote:	Ayes:	Eric Baca
		Dan Muth
		Connie Hunt
		Susan Silva

6. Old Business: None

7. Tourism Tax Committee Recommendations:

Ms. Crystal Steed addressed the council regarding the "Showdown in the Badlands" event. She updated them on all of the advertising the additional money she requested is being used for.

Mayor Baca called for a motion on the table before she proceeded.

Susan Silva/Dan Muth motion to accept the recommendation of the Tourism Tax Committee to fund the "Showdown in the Badlands" in the amount of \$1954.00.

Ms. Steed asked if it was possible to be present to represent the Town of Springerville at the event. Councilmember Muth volunteered to make his phone number available for her to contact him.

Councilmember Silva asked what percentage of the funds would be given to the White Mountain Safe House.

Ms. Steed said she didn't know at this time what percentage they would be giving to them and said they were having a raffle for the Safe House and they would give them 50% of the money they make on the raffle.

Concerns were expressed by Mayor Baca and Councilmember Thebeau with giving additional funds after the council voted unanimously to approve funds just a couple of weeks ago. However, he said he wasn't against this event or giving more money.

Manager West assured the council that this account would never be overspent. The idea of this bed tax money is to bring money back into the economy.

Councilmember Hunt asked Ms. Steed to return to a council meeting after the event and report on the number of people who participated in the event and the total expenses. Then maybe the council can go back to the Tourism Tax Committee and open a door of communication with them. She said this was a little uncomfortable for the council at times.

Vote: Ayes: Dan Muth
 Connie Hunt
 Susan Silva

 Nays: Eric Baca
 Ron Thebeau

8. Arizona Water Atlas Map Presentation by Dennis Chandler: Mr. Chandler started out by asking who owns the water we use saying the State of Arizona owns our water and challenged the council to make a water plan in order to plan for growth noting if we don't plan for our future someone else will. He suggested talking to David Newlin to assist the Town in coming up with a water plan. The water atlas he presented showed a soil profile showing that there is rock/sandstone underneath our soil. They have found that it takes a thousand years for water to be rejuvenated or replenish itself. He reiterated that we need to plan for the future of Springerville's water needs to plan for the future of Springerville and its people.

9. Becker Lake Presentation: Presentation by Kelly Meyer of Arizona Game and Fish regarding proposed changes to the management of Becker Lake.

Kelly Meyer of Arizona Game and Fish addressed the council regarding possible changes to the status of fishing at Becker Lake. He said he wanted input from the council regarding making Becker Lake a catch and release only lake noting that it's the only lake that does not winter or summer kill and this would reduce the amount of restocking. The idea is to allow the fish to grow to 20 inches in length. This would

draw more anglers to the lake noting it would have an impact on the economy. Mr. Kelly asked for the council for any comments and their support.

Councilmember Silva said in years past when Becker Lake was privately owned opening day which was April 1st weekend brought large crowds of people to Springerville for quality fishing who filled our hotels and restaurants. She said she would like to see this happen again but would like to see Game & Fish make the surrounding banks and area more conducive to families.

Mr. Dave Goeradt agreed that under the old regulations this used to be a destination lake that attracted anglers from around the state for opening day and brought a lot of revenue. When the regulations were changed to bait fishing the lake wasn't a good place to go anymore. He felt this would again be a destination lake with the changes and felt they would come again and bring revenue to the area.

There was no opposition to these changes from the council.

10. Elk Presentation: Presentation by Arizona Game and Fish regarding elk population management in and around Round Valley.

Mike Godwin Fish Field Supervisor E Sector department with Arizona Game did a presentation regarding the management of elk in public lands. He explained they are going to work with the communities to put something in place to manage the elk population in the Round Valley area. The objective of the elk management plan is to put something in place so that Round Valley isn't an area the elk select for year round habitat but only come in seasonally and they want to eliminate the private land conflicts that are beginning again. He said this management plan will be proposed to the game branch in Phoenix and to the Commission for a vote in December. The proposed hunts will become effective in late summer and fall of 2011 and they'll work on another proposal in 2012 after an evaluation.

He reiterated the objective of the plan is to address the elk coming into town and the private land conflicts. A population management hunt has been done in the past with a limited degree of effectiveness but it hasn't been effective in addressing certain problem because they have not applied significant pressure on the elk to change their behavior. He wants to give hunters a 20 to 30% opportunity to harvest an elk and some harvests will be higher than others. He has seen hunt pressure change elk behavior and this is what they're doing with the management plan. They want to reduce the elk population by 10% in unit one because they have reached a social capability which is why they are coming down. He restated by putting pressure through repetitive nature they are looking to create a scenario that will make this an uninhabitable place for them. This won't happen in the first year, it's going to take two to three years to make this happen but they will evaluate this annually.

Mr. Godwin thanked the council for allowing him to do this presentation.

Mayor Baca called for a 5 minute intermission at 7:48 p.m.

Dan Muth/Connie Hunt motion to reconvene the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Vote:	Ayes:	Eric Baca
		Dan Muth
		Connie Hunt
		Susan Silva
		Ron Thebeau

11. Dan Muth/Connie Hunt motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:58 p.m. in accordance with ARS Section 38-431.03 a(7).

Vote:	Ayes:	Eric Baca
		Dan Muth
		Connie Hunt

Susan Silva
Ron Thebeau

Connie Hunt/Ron Thebeau motion to reconvene the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m..

Vote: Ayes: Eric Baca
 Dan Muth
 Connie Hunt
 Susan Silva
 Ron Thebeau

b. Any action as a result of executive session:

Mayor Baca announced there was no action as a result of executive session.

Ron Thebeau/Connie Hunt motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Eric Baca, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in executive session on Wednesday, October 6, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 13th day of October, 2010

Town Clerk